

Jacqueline H. Wright, ~~22274 City Center Dr. #1000, Maywood, CA 91541~~

April 26, 1995

Rev. Robert E. H. Peebles  
8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 299928-5444

Dear Rev. Peebles:

I am responding to your query regarding DeWitt and Roper progenitors, as found in the Palmetto Genealogy section of the recent CAROLOGUE. Although a DeWitt family researcher for several years, sorry to say that I have no knowledge of the Roper line.

You probably know that the surname, DeWitt, was of Dutch-Flemish origin. Some DeWitt Protestants moved to France, then to England before emigrating to several colonies in America. One branch came early to Virginia (1637) where the next four generations lived until the early 1750s. Two families subsequently moved on to the Province of South Carolina during the 1750s-1760s.

The South Carolina provincial land grants indicate the first DeWitts to settle there were Charles DeWitt (c1704-1770) and sons, James and Joseph, of early Orangeburg, Beaufort, and Colleton Counties in western South Carolina, c1750s-1800. Secondly, descendants of Martin and/or Thomas DeWitt, Charles' brothers, migrated later to eastern South Carolina before the Revolutionary War, and their offspring settled along the Pee Dee River between Cheraws and Georgetown.

I have compiled a four-page ancestry of the DeWitts of Virginia and South Carolina and would be willing to provide a copy in exchange for data relative to your DeWitt line. Specifically, who do you think were the parents of James DeWitt, born SC in 1776? Did James have any sisters? Their names? Were James and his son, James F. DeWitt born 1795, residents of Edgefield District before obtaining the passport in 1809? What was the relationship of James and James F. to Joseph DeWitt who also settled with them in early Alabama? What male given-names appear in their lines?

I also have a DeWitt family connection but need to prove it. My related query was published in Palmetto Genealogy, Summer 1993, but solicited no response. My progenitor, Joseph DeWitt Nicks (1795-1832), probably was born in Charleston District. He is believed to have been the son of a DeWitt daughter (name unknown) and husband, William Nicks (c1750-1812) of Christ Church Parish, Charleston District (1790 Census). James and Sarah (Rumph) DeWitt lived nearby in St. Georges Parish, as did his brother, Joseph DeWitt Sr. of St. Bartholomews Parish, Charleston District, South Carolina (1790 Census). James appears to have had one son, Charles born c1750s, and several females in his household (daughters or granddaughters?). Do you have their names? (Only Katherine is known and apparently remained single.)

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that you have a good response to your query.

Sincerely,

*Jacqueline Wright*